

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended). A sling seat, comprising:

a plurality of at least three flexible layers of material of a non-uniform stiffness, with each layer having a top side, a bottom side, a front edge, a rear edge, and a pair of generally parallel side edges, with each side edge of said layers fastened together to form a pair of generally parallel side seams;

a plurality of flexible pads, located between each two adjacent flexible layers;

and a support for separately supporting each side seam to form a sling seat[[],]

~~characterized in that each of said flexible layers of material has a non-uniform stiffness, and at least one flexible pad is located between at least two of said layers of material.~~

Claim 2 (original). The seat of claim 1, wherein said flexible layers of material are held in tension.

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Claim 3 (original). The seat of claim 1, wherein said flexible pads are held in compression.

Claim 4 (original). The seat of claim 1, wherein said flexible pads are constructed from foam rubber.

Claim 5 (withdrawn). The seat of claim 1, wherein said flexible pads are constructed from sheet rubber which contains a plurality of protrusions for spacing said flexible layers apart.

Claim 6 (withdrawn). A sling seat assembly for use by a person seated in a wheelchair having a solid horizontal support, said seat comprising:

a first flexible layer having first means for accommodating the ischial tuberosities of a person seated on said assembly;

a second flexible layer, located adjacent to said first layer, having second means aligned with said first accommodating means for accommodating the ischial tuberosities of the person;

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characterized in that said seat assembly further includes a third flexible layer located adjacent to said second layer on the side opposite said first layer, having third means aligned with said first and second accommodating means for accommodating the ischial tuberosities of the person;

a fourth flexible layer, located adjacent to said third layer on the side opposite said second layer, having fourth means aligned with said first, second, and third accommodating means for accommodating the ischial tuberosities of the person;

and a rigid planar layer, located adjacent to said fourth layer on the side opposite said third layer, having fifth means aligned with said first, second, third and fourth accommodating means for accommodating the ischial tuberosities of the person;

whereby when said assembly is placed upon a solid horizontal support associated with a wheelchair, said assembly performs as a sling seat for a person seated upon said assembly.

Claim 7 (withdrawn). The assembly of claim 6, wherein said first flexible layer contains a downwardly extending portion.

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Claim 8 (withdrawn). The assembly of claim 6, wherein said first flexible layer is constructed from an open celled polyurethane foam.

Claim 9 (withdrawn). The assembly of claim 6, wherein said first accommodating means comprises a pair of spaced apart apertures corresponding to the ischial tuberosities of a person.

Claim 10 (withdrawn). The assembly of claim 6, wherein said second accommodating means comprises a pair of spaced apart apertures corresponding to the ischial tuberosities.

Claim 11 (withdrawn). The assembly of claim 6, wherein said third accommodating means comprises a pair of spaced apart apertures corresponding to the ischial tuberosities.

Claim 12 (withdrawn). The assembly of claim 6, wherein said fourth accommodating means comprises an aperture for accommodating the ischial tuberosities.

Claim 13 (withdrawn). The assembly of claim 6, wherein said fifth accommodating means comprises an aperture for accommodating the ischial tuberosities.

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Claim 14 (withdrawn). The assembly of claim 11, where in said third flexible layer further includes a support positioned between said spaced apart apertures and extending rearwardly to enhance the weight distribution of the person seated on said assembly.

Claim 15 (withdrawn). The assembly of claim 6, wherein said fourth flexible layer consists of a plurality of separate foam sections composed from materials having different physical properties.

Claim 16 (withdrawn). The assembly of claim 6, further comprising a median divider, located beneath said second flexible layer, for positioning the legs of a person seated upon said assembly.

Claim 17 (withdrawn). The assembly of claim 6, wherein said rigid planar layer contains a plurality of apertures located forward of said fifth accommodating means.

Claim 18 (withdrawn). The assembly of claim 17, further comprising a fifth flexible layer located adjacent said rigid planar layer of the side opposite said fourth flexible layer, having sixth means aligned with said first, second, third, fourth and fifth accommodating means for accommodating

the ischial tuberosities of the person, and a plurality of raised protrusions associated with said plurality of apertures within said rigid planar layer for positioning said assembly upon said horizontal support.

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Claim 19 (withdrawn). The assembly of claim 6, wherein said fourth flexible layer contains a cutout section adjacent said fourth accommodating means for positioning the coccyx of the person seated upon the assembly.

Claim 20 (New). The seat of claim 1, further including an accommodating layer having a cutout section for accommodating the ischial tuberosities of a person sitting in the seat.

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